Kevin Oates, Adak Project Manager for the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Elim Yoon, Project Manager for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, announced the end to the formal dispute among the Navy and EPA and the State of Alaska over the development of plans for investigation and cleanup of sites on Adak Island potentially contaminated with ordnance.

The announcement was made at a December 18 meeting of the OU "B" Project Team in Silverdale, Washington.

With the completion of the Preliminary Assessment Report and the RI/FS Work Plan in December 2000, the OU "B" Project Team completed the work necessary to resolve the formal dispute initiated with the Navy by the EPA and ADEC in July of 1999 under the provisions of the existing Federal Facilities Agreement for the cleanup of the former Navy base at Adak Island.

In an effort to resolve the dispute, the Navy, EPA, and the State of Alaska formed the OU "B" Project Team, which included representatives from the Navy, EPA, State of Alaska, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Aleut Corporation, and the Aleutian/Pribiloff Island Association, as well as technical support from experts in the field of ordnance investigation and cleanup and community relations.

While a considerable amount of investigation and cleanup work remain to be done on OU "B," the end of the formal dispute is a sig-

Upcoming RAB Meetings

An informal meeting of Adak RAB members is scheduled for 7 p.m. Anchorage time, 6 p.m. Adak time on Feb. 21st. The meeting will be held at the ADEC offices located at 555 Cordova Street in Anchorage. Please check the web site, www.adakupdate.com, for the latest meeting information.

The next regularly scheduled RAB meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Anchorage time, 6 p.m. Adak time, on March 21st at the Hilton Hotel, 500 West Third Avenue, in Anchorage.

Please check the www.adakupdate.com or call 1-800-360-1561 for more information.
Continued from page 1

nificant milestone for the project. Completion of the Preliminary Assessment Report and RI/FS Work Plan provides an agreed on framework for conducting future investigations and arriving at cleanup decisions for OU "B" sites.

In a letter to confirm EPA approval of the Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection reports, Kevin Oates commended the Navy and its support contractors for reaching this milestone.

"The Navy has demonstrated exemplary efforts to work cooperatively with EPA, the State of Alaska, the Aleut Corporation, The Aleutian Pribiloff Island Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Adak Restoration Advisory Board, Adak community members and other stakeholders through the OU-B Project Team to develop a workable solution for ordnance issues at Adak," Oates wrote. "This is especially notable during a time when there is a great deal of ongoing national debate on many topics concerning the investigation, clearance and management of property that has been affected by the use of ordnance."

The OU "B" Project Team was tasked with developing a plan for investigating sites with potential UXO contamination that addressed the concerns of regulatory agencies as well as community members and the future reuser of the former Navy base, The Aleut Corporation. This plan is formally referred to as the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan for OU "B".

Since its formation in July of 1999, the OU "B" Project Team has worked closely to resolve complex technical issues related to completing the RI/FS Work Plan. The Project Team generally met on a monthly basis with regular teleconferences and e-mail communication among members of the team.

A key component of the project team's work was reaching out to stakeholders to ensure their concerns were addressed. The project team met with the Restoration Advisory Board and held open houses to invite community input. In addition, a cooperative agreement between the Navy and the Aleutian/Pribiloff Island Association developed to facilitate A/PIA's participation as a member of the OU "B" Project Team.

The work of the project team includes:

- Completing and documenting a thorough Archive Search Report to document previous UXO storage, handling, use and disposal activities on Adak;
- Developing site screening methodologies for prioritizing investigation and cleanup of OU "B" sites;
- Identifying appropriate technologies for field detection of UXO at sites being investigated on Adak;
- Developing approaches for UXO investigations at sites planned for investigation during the 2000 field season on Adak;
- Developing Standard Operating Procedures for rigorously documenting and recording all data collected during UXO investigations on Adak;
- Developing the Explosive Hazard Safety Assessment Model for OU "B" Adak;
- Developing detailed Land Use and Activity Maps for Adak based on current and expected future land use patterns for Adak.

These accomplishments are particularly noteworthy because of little precedent or guidance for dealing with many of these issues.

Mark Murphy, the Navy's Lead Adak Project Manager stated, "The Navy certainly appreciates the efforts of the project team. When the team was formed, it seemed as if some of the challenges we faced would be impossible to overcome. It really says a lot about what a group of people can get done if they have a common goal."

Where to Get More Information
INFOLINE: 1-800-360-1561

University of Alaska Anchorage, Library Reserve Room, 3211 Providence Dr.
907-786-1871 - M-F, 8 am to 5 pm, Contact: Librarian

Information Repository Adak
Second Floor, Bob Reeve High School
M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The CSO Office on Adak is now located at Sandy Cove Housing, 101 C
Contact: Chief Rob Jenkins 1- 907-592-4351

Administrative Record Engineering Field Activity NW
19917 Seventh Avenue, NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370
www.adakupdate.com
Draft Institutional Controls Management Plan Available for Public Review


According to the Navy’s Project Manager and Environmental Specialist Patty Kelly, institutional controls are a variety of legal devices imposed to make sure that human health and the environment are protected. Institutional controls are used to make sure land use restrictions and other environmental remedies stay in place in order to assure safety.

"The Navy is required to make sure institutional controls remain reliable for as long as the control remains in effect," she said.

The Draft Institutional Controls Management Plan serves several purposes; it details how current and future residents will be notified about environmental conditions and limits on property; outlines a process for inspection and maintenance of required controls; details how information to regulators will be tracked to make sure land uses in areas remains consistent with restrictions; and establishes an educational plan to keep the Adak community aware.

Petroleum Site Status Report

Monitoring of petroleum sites on Adak is continuing, as is the evaluation of the environmental interim actions currently in place.

According to the Navy’s Petroleum Project Manager Langston Walker, the Operable Unit "A" Record of Decision calls for evaluating the effectiveness of all interim actions that are in place with focused feasibility studies regarding petroleum cleanup. The ROD also requires that any enhancements to existing environmental remedies be fully evaluated.

"There are 10 sites on Adak where the environmental remedy selected in the Record of Decision called for ‘monitored natural attenuation’ to stabilize and reduce chemicals in the groundwater," Walker said.

Those 10 sites include two locations at Amulet Housing; Antenna Field; the former Power Plant Building (T-1451); the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction Area UST-8; Runway 5-23 Aviation Gasoline Valve Pit; Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 14, the former Pesticide Storage Area; SWMU 15, the Future Jobs/Defense Reutilization Marketing Office; and SMWUs 60 and 61- Tank Farms A and B.

Walker said the Navy is undergoing a process of study and evaluation, similar to that employed by a focused feasibility study.

"Plans call for the development of fact sheets for stakeholder distribution and comments following the evaluation process," he said.

Walker said the nine sites currently being studied include: GCI Compound; Heating Plant No. 6; Old Transportation Building; Steam Plant No. 4; P80 Building; P81 Building; P 70 Energy Generator; South of Runway 18-36; New Housing Fuel Leak; and Yakutat Hangar.

Five remaining sites with free-product will also be undergoing a focused feasibility study-like evaluation.

"Those sites are the Arctic Acres Housing Area; the Navy Marine Corps Building Expanded Area; the NORPAC Hill Seep; Tanker Shed; and Power Plant No. 3," he said.

Walker said that the upcoming field season on Adak for further petroleum evaluations is scheduled to begin about April 1, 2001.

Future Updates

If you have suggested topics you would like to see included in Adak Update, please contact Patty Kelly at 360-396-0049 or email her at kellypl@efanw.navfac.navy.mil.
Continued from page 3 of land use restrictions.

Adak has soil excavation restrictions, Kelly said, that range from absolute restrictions on digging at former landfill sites to dig permit requirements. Adak institutional controls also restrict domestic use of groundwater in the downtown.

Controls are also in place to assure engineered remedies to contain and/or reduce contamination and physical barriers to limit property all remain in place.

Another important safety component outlined in the Draft Plan addresses effective communication and education in the community.

“Institutional control education is fundamental to their success,” Kelly said. “Input from the community will be crucial to the effectiveness of institutional controls and for the development of further educational efforts.”

Education efforts and appropriate signage are fundamental to the success of institutional controls.

Adak Update
Engineering Field Activity, Northwest
19917 Seventh Ave., NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Check out the Web site for up-to-date information
www.adakupdate.com
Don't forget to visit www.adakupdate.com for up-to-date information on meetings, newly released documents or important events related to Adak.

Adak Update Mailing List
To be added to the Adak Update mailing list, please call Susan Christianson at 907-789-3098 or send your name, address and telephone number to chriscom@gci.net.
2001 Operable Unit B Plans

Plans for the 2001 summer field season for Operable Unit B call for two former combat ranges to be investigated. According to Project Manager Mark Murphy, Combat Range #1 and Combat Range #2 will be investigated this season and field season plans call for the targeted anomalies on Mount Moffett to be investigated, Murphy said.

At the March RAB meeting in Anchorage, Murphy reviewed the 2000 investigations and the public is encouraged to comment on the Operable Unit B-1 Proposed Plan that will be released in mid-May. The proposed plan is a document that describes the preferred cleanup alternatives for Operable Unit B-1, and it is intended to familiarize stakeholders with the cleanup plan. The public comment period will be held from mid-May through mid-June. You may comment in writing anytime during the public comment period. You may also comment verbally, or in writing, at public meetings to be held on Adak Island and in Anchorage. The public meetings will be scheduled two weeks after the release of the proposed plan for remedial action. Once scheduled, the public meetings will be held at the Bob Reeve High School. The Anchorage meeting location will be announced as the meeting dates are known.

The proposed plan will be mailed to known interested stakeholders and it will be posted on the adakupdate.com website; in the Anchorage Newspaper; and on Adak Island through the Caretaker Site Office. The public is encouraged to submit comments on the Operable Unit B-1 Proposed Plan to Mark Murphy.

After consideration of public comments, the Navy, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will select the final cleanup remedies. The remedy selection will be documented in a record of decision.

Responses to public comments will be attached to the record of decision, in what is called a responsiveness summary.

RAB Meeting Schedule

The next regularly scheduled RAB is set for 6 p.m. Adak time, 7 p.m. Anchorage time, on May 23, in the Bob Reeve High School on Adak. Anchorage RAB members will be able to attend via teleconference from the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage.

For more information, please check www.adakupdate.com, or call 1-800-360-1561. Adak RAB Co-Chair Richard Stoll can be reached at stollrk@efanw.navfac.navy.mil.
The Navy has set forth an aggressive schedule to complete focused feasibility studies. The Navy’s Petroleum Remedial Project Manager, Langston Walker, used South Runway 18/36 to illustrate how the focused feasibility study process works. The objective of focused feasibility studies are to identify alternatives to achieve final cleanup as part of the focused feasibility study process are approaching the maximum extent practical for the current remedies. The study process helps scientists to evaluate if other alternatives can be used to enhance the cleanup efforts.

In the Fall of 2000, ground-penetrating radar was used at South Runway 18/36; 10 wells were sampled and measurements of free product were taken, and groundwater and soil samples obtained and analyzed at an independent, state-certified laboratory. The laboratory analysis was able to provide a “product fingerprint” that pointed to the source of the problem at the site being a historic diesel pipeline. Based on the work performed last fall, a focused feasibility study will be completed with alternatives to cleanup the site.

Once the focused feasibility study is completed, a public comment period will be held. Following input from the public, the Navy will complete a plan to implement the remedies, with concurrence from the regulatory agencies.

The Navy has added additional work to this summer’s schedule in order for the transfer of property to the Aleut Corporation from the Department of Interior to take place. The Navy will demolish identified unsafe buildings on the island. Some of the structures, such as identified cabins, will be burned in place. Other demolition debris will be placed in Roberts Landfill prior to the closure of the landfill, also scheduled to be closed later in the summer.
Adak Restoration Advisory Board Represented at Statewide RAB Roundtable

Cathy Villa, the Adak Restoration Advisory Board Co-Chair, attended a recent RAB Roundtable gathering of RAB leaders from around the state. Approximately 200 RAB representatives attended the roundtable held in February at the Anchorage Egan Center. The RAB roundtable was a part of a day-long Alaska Forum on the Environment. JoAnn Grady, of Grady & Associates facilitated the event, sponsored by the Department of Defense.

“The purpose of the RAB roundtable was to help RAB members be able to find out how RABs are conducted in other places and to allow a statewide exchange of information,” Villa said. The roundtable was geared toward strengthening RABs and answering questions about RAB development and functioning.

In addition to RAB community members and co-chairs and Department of Defense personnel, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation had representatives available to exchange ideas and help answer questions.

Villa noted that there were many suggestions regarding the use of computers and websites for communication, which Adak already has in place.

In addition, Villa said the Adak RAB had addressed communications issues that many other boards were struggling with. “Because Adak has some of the biggest distances between RAB members,” she said, “we had to address these issues early on.”

Villa said there were a number of other similar issues being addressed by RABs statewide. Oil cleanup, abandoned buildings, and cleanup of unexploded ordnance are all issues being addressed across the state. These are issues that Adak has also worked on and continues to work on. The UXO technology is more advanced, with the unique situation on Adak, Villa said.

RAB membership is also an issue across the state. “I came away wanting to solicit more RAB membership on Adak,” Villa said. Anyone interested in becoming an Adak RAB member can contact Villa at VillaAdak@aol.com to apply for membership. There is a short application for people to fill out to be considered for membership. Villa said people interested in serving and getting involved are welcome to apply for membership at any time.

Information Repositories

The Navy is committed to informing stakeholders. One avenue of information gathering that stakeholders use are the information repositories. Patty Kelly, Navy Remedial Project Manager, stated that it’s important that people realize that the documents placed in the repositories are for everyone’s use.

Occasionally documents are missing from the repositories, and Kelly stressed that it’s important that people not remove documents that are for everyone’s use. Kelly noted that there are electronic copies available of the most recent documents on the web, and they can be readily downloaded. She said if documents are missing from a repository, to please contact her.

Occasionally documents are placed in the wrong location when they are returned to the shelves. However, if it’s brought to the Navy’s attention, the issue can be resolved. She did ask that people provide specific information regarding the documents, or portions of the documents, that cannot be found in the repositories.

For questions or comments on the repositories, please contact Patty Kelly at 360-396-0049, or email her at kellypl@efanw.navfac.navy.mil.

Where to Get More Information

INFOLINE: 1-800-360-1561

University of Alaska Anchorage, Library Reserve Room, 3211 Providence Dr. 907-786-1871 - M-F, 8 am to 5 pm, Contact: Librarian

Information Repository Adak Second Floor, Bob Reeve High School M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The CSO Office on Adak is now located at Sandy Cove Housing, 101 C Contact: Ron O'Toole 907-592-4351

Check out the Web site for up-to-date information

www.adakupdate.com
The Alaska Division of Elections posted the election results for the Adak incorporation vote to its website, with the results overwhelmingly in favor of incorporation.

The election results were certified by the Lt. Governor’s office on April 20, 2001. Certification of election results by the Lt. Governor made the election results official.

Voters were asked to cast a ballot for three ballot measures and for a seven-member city council.

Sixty-one voters cast a "yes" vote on Ballot Measure #1, asking if Adak should be incorporated into a second-class city. Six "no" votes were cast.

On Ballot Measure #2, "Shall the City of Adak be authorized to levy a three percent sales tax?" there were 57 votes cast in favor of the measure and 10 opposed.

Ballot Measure #3, authorizing the City of Adak to levy a two percent fuel transfer tax, also passed by a 54 to 12 vote margin.

All three measures had to pass for the city to be incorporated.

In addition, the following seven candidates received the most votes for the Adak City Council: Patty A. Vessel, 48 votes; Ben Misikin, 45; Agafon Krukoff, Jr., 44; Adrian Melovidov, Jr., 43; Cynthia R. Galaktionoff, 42; Richard L. Pollen, 41; and Ricky D. Sloan, 40.

To be added to the Adak Update mailing list, please call Susan Christianson at 907-789-3098 or send your name, address and telephone number to chriscom@gci.net.
The Adak public schools’ headmaster, Matthew DeGraffenreid, and Adak’s 4th grade school students met with Navy representatives on May 29 to discuss their ideas for icons to be used for the Adak ordnance safety awareness and land use control programs on the island.

Adak students who participated were Isaiah Johnson, Scott Galanin, Jennifer Zacharof, Jordan Johnson, Troy Jacko, Alex Galanin, Samuel DeGraffenreid, and their family and friends.

The icons students developed will be used with environmental educational materials and signs to advise residents and visitors of potential ordnance hazards.

According to Patty Kelly, the Navy Project Manager, Mr. DeGraffenreid first led the students in a discussion about the historical use of Adak by the Aleuts and the military. The students then quickly focused on using an Aleut grandmother and grandfather to deliver a message of safety and awareness to the Adak residents and visitors.

The class role played how an Aleut grandmother and grandfather might look if they were trying to warn their family and friends...
Continued from Page 1

about potential island hazards.

Kelly said students also sug-
gested using the words "Be
Safe" and "Be Aware" on signs
and in educational materials to
reflect the message their grand-
parents would deliver if they
went outdoors.

It was also suggested that
both English and the Aleut lan-
guage, Unungax, be used on
informational signs.

The Navy will use the stu-
dents suggestions and incorpo-
rate their ideas into the Navy’s
Environmental Institutional Con-
trol and Educational Program on
Adak.

Kelly said the icons will also
be used in developing additional
educational materials. “I hope
that when the community looks
at the icons they take pride in
the efforts of the students,” she
said.

“I found it extremely interest-
ing how well the students
understood their heritage, the
island, and the land use restric-
tions, and the students’ ability
to bring all the concepts togeth-
er into icons we can use in our
environmental program,” Kelly
said.

“Be Safe!” is the warning this “great-great grandmoth-
er” will give to Adak residents on signs designed by
Adak school children.

Summer Fieldwork On Track

The Navy committed project
funds in fiscal year 2001 totaling
$17.4 million for the environmental
cleanup and land transfer of Adak.

The work to be completed this
field season includes ordnance
investigations and cleanup; petro-
leum product recovery and site
management; long-term monitor-
ing; institutional control manage-
ment implementation; unsafe
building and cabin demolition;
waste management; airport ditch
culvert installation; Roberts Landfill
Closure and long-term monitoring.

The Navy also maintains a
Caretaker Site Office on Adak and
oversees environmental compli-
ance of activities on the island, as
well as the environmental cleanup
work.

Given the challenges of island
transportation and the increased
costs associated with them early
in the field season, the Navy has
been able to maintain it’s original
schedule except for the pipeline
abandonment at Tank Farm A-1
and Traffic Circle.

The pipeline abandonment
work will be rescheduled at a later
date. Both projects are considered
low risk sites.

Additionally, Navy has coordi-
nated with The Aleut Corporations
in identifying specific facilities
determined to be unsafe that will
be demolished.

The US Environmental Protec-
tion Agency and the Alaska
Department of Environmental
Conservation are overseeing the
summer environmental work on
Adak.
Navy Proposes Remedies for OU "B1"

The Navy, with concurrence from the Operable Unit B Project Team, distributed their proposed plan for the Operable Unit B-1 remedies and held public meetings on Adak and Anchorage on May 29 and 31, respectively.

The Operable Unit B Project Team consists of representatives from the Navy, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; The Aleut Corporation; the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association; the US Fish and Wildlife Service; and community members.

OU B-1 includes 130 ordnance explosives (OE) or unexploded ordnance (UXO) areas of concern (AOCs, or sites). OU B-1 addresses the ordnance sites within the former Adak Naval Complex with the exception of areas in the vicinity of Mt. Moffett and Andrew Lake.

According to Mark Murphy, the Navy’s Lead Project Manager, ordnance educational awareness programs and incorporation of deed notices in property transfer documents will be implemented throughout the former Adak Naval Complex that will encompass these 130 sites. No Further Action is proposed for 104 of the 130 sites.

Murphy said OE/UXO clearance to 4 feet below ground surface will be conducted at three of the remaining 26 sites. The remaining 23 sites will undergo final characterization and clearance as needed to support future land use. Fourteen of the 23 sites will have soil sampled for explosives-related chemicals and will have soil removed, treated, and disposed of either on site or offsite, as necessary. No Further Action was proposed for 104 of the OU B-1 sites, based on initial screening efforts by the Adak OU-B Project Team and on evaluations completed as part of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process.

Mr. Murphy also stated that the major components of the no further action sites include continuing the Adak OE/UXO awareness program. The program applies to the entire military reservation at Adak, including areas that are part of OU B-1.

This program is intended to familiarize island residents and visitors with the history of ordnance use, storage, handling, and disposal on Adak Island; basic characteristics of OE/UXO items on Adak; and the procedures that should be followed if a suspected OE/UXO item is encountered.

Murphy explained the methodology used for the investigation of the OU B-1 sites. The factors primarily considered were the likelihood of ordnance in a particular area based on historical information, the characteristics of the ordnance in an area and the dangers associated with them; and the accessibility of the ordnance and whether or not people are likely to encounter it.

Those factors were input into an explosive safety hazard assessment screening. The overall weighted score placed sites

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Continued form Page 3

into five explosives safety hazard categories to reflect potential response options. Murphy explained that the lowest hazard levels (A and B) called for no further action, while levels C through E required the sites receiving those scores to be addressed specifically in a Feasibility Study.

After completion of the assessment process, three sites were carried through the Feasibility Study: Combat Range #3, Combat Range #6 and the Mitt Lake Impact Area, Murphy said. Murphy explained that because of the limitations of current technology, challenging terrain and topography associated with sites on Adak, it is not possible to completely eliminate the potential for encountering OE/UXO on Adak.

Because of that, the cleanup goal for OU B, as agreed to by the Project Team, was to reduce the potential for exposure to ordnance and unexploded ordnance hazards to a degree that will enable the hazards to be managed, he said.

In order to reduce and manage hazards, the Project Team cleanup alternatives spanned a wide range from no further action, to surface clearance, to surface and subsurface clearance, to sampling for ordnance compounds and removal and disposal of explosives and contaminated soils.

The continuation of the Adak ordnance and unexploded ordnance education and awareness programs and disclosure of investigation and cleanup information during the land transfer process are also important components of hazard management, he said. Murphy also outlined the costs of various proposed alternatives.

He explained that costs ranged from lows of $50,000 per site on no further action sites to highs of $299,000 for a subsurface clearance at an individual site, and $550,000 for the 23 subsurface clearance sites selected for the 2001 field season.

A Record of Decision is expected by the end of 2001, and a Finding of Suitability for Transfer of the property included in Operable Unit B-1 is still on track for 2002, Murphy said.